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MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1910.

The Dangers of Insurgency.

A great many people inclined to sym-
pathize with some of the ideas, ideals,
and suggestions of the so-called "insur-
gents" in Congress deplore, nevertheless,
the tendency toward the ridiculous un-
questionably manifested now and then
by that noble band of patriots and
maybe, martyrs.

And in this predicament the follow-
ing from the Richmond News Leader is
more than ordinarily significant:

"Recognizing the courage and the general high
purpose of the 'insurgent' Senators and Repre-
sentatives of the Congress, the News Leader is in
sympathy with them. Yet we can see no sense in
their repeated demand that the committee of the
House be chosen by the House itself instead of by
the Speaker. We know of no legislative body in
which such a method is used. It would cause end-
less confusion and delay. It would cause combi-
nations and intrigues which would be more trou-
blesome and less responsible than Speaker Cannon.
At the beginning of each Congress several political
organizers would prepare their shares, distribute the
committee places, and marshal their forces for the
division. Each party would have a caucus within
its caucus. Those who declined to become part of
the organization would be left out, consigned to
ridiculous unimportance and impotent committees.
Nobody would be responsible, and we would have
more legislation and scandal, and more trouble
than the country ever has seen."

"The 'insurgents' had better abandon this scheme
of theirs and get together, if possible, and decide
on something practicable on which they may appeal
to their own constituents and to the country."

Another chicken that will most likely
come home to roost, if the "insurgents"
ever find themselves in the majority in
Congress, is their present professed at-
titude toward the House rules. No man
or set of men ever clamored more loudly
against "czarism" in the House than
did the Democratic minority in the Fifty-
first Congress under the effective lead-
ership of Mr. Crisp. And yet, when Mr.
Crisp afterward became Speaker in suc-
cession to Mr. Reed, he did Mr. Reed's
judgment the distinguished honor of in-
dorsing it in fact and in practice by
adopting the very Reed rules that he
(Crisp) had so vigorously denounced;
thus forgetting, most conveniently, his
own previous excessive virtue and pa-
triotism as set forth on the floor of the
House from the standpoint of the mi-
nority.

The worst thing the "insurgents" in
the present Congress may do for their
cause is to make it ridiculous in the eyes
of the country, or cause it to be ac-
cepted as not entirely sincere or free
from buccaneer. And in this connection
the Richmond News Leader sounds a
timely, though frankly friendly, warning.

Sakhalin for Sale.

It is reported that Russia wishes to sell
the northern half of the island of Sakha-
lin, awarded to her by the peace confer-
ence at Portsmouth. The report includes
the curious statement that a good price is
expected, owing to competition between
the United States and Japan. It is easy
to understand that Japan might regard
the purchase as desirable, but there is no
apparent warrant for the assumption that
the United States would compete. The
island is the northernmost of the three
which embrace the Sea of Japan and the
Gulf of Tartary, being separated from the
mainland of the Russian maritime prov-
ince by a narrow strait which makes into
the Sea of Okhotsk. Of about the area of
the Intermediate Island, Yezo, it is half
as long as Nippon itself. Russian con-
victs, ex-convicts, and exiles constitute
the bulk of the population, though the
aborigines persist, a remnant of the origi-
nal inhabitants of a great part of the
Japanese archipelago. The relationship of
these to the Japanese is generally as-
sumed to be that of the North American
Indians to the Americans, although to-
day there is doubtless an Alno strain in
the Japanese race.

Passing of the Naval Constructors.

In the proposed changes which are
engaging naval attention there is nothing
more violent or difficult to reconcile with
the policy of reform in that branch of the
government than the contemplated merger
of the corps of naval constructors with
the line of the navy. Perhaps this would re-
move energetic and intelligently directed
opposition to some features of the latest
plan of naval reorganization, so far as it
affects departmental administration and
navy yard control. But assuredly that is
not a sufficient reason for abolishing a
corps of trained experts whose members
are graduates of the Naval Academy and
who have received special education at
technical schools and in a practical way,
fitting them for the important and re-
sponsible task of the designing and con-
struction of war vessels. We shall not
undertake to discuss whether or not the
naval constructors are a "disturbing ele-
ment" in the navy, or whether they are
standing up for the privileges to which
they are entitled, and which they think
should be theirs by virtue of every con-
sideration of economy and efficiency. It
is hopeless, we imagine, to expect that
there will ever be a termination of the
line and staff fight in the navy, and, in
any event, the establishment of harmony

would be at a great cost if the considera-
tion of purchase were the extinction of
the corps of naval constructors.
Conservative naval view must certainly
appreciate that there is a limit to the
principle of amalgamation, and that line
officers represent in their duties a spe-
cialty which is quite distinct from, and
probably more important than, the duties
of any of the staff corps. It is difficult
to see how they can become naval con-
structors to a degree represented by the
members of the present construction
corps. It would seem to be a defect of
any plan of reorganization which does
not make the best possible use of highly
trained staff officers, whose experience
and ability should serve a useful purpose
in the scheme of preparing for war.

The Roof of the World.

While Commander Peary is adding to
our knowledge of the polar region and
Lieut. Shackleton that of the great snow
wastes of the antarctic, Sven Hedin, al-
ready well known as a Tibetan explorer,
gives some interesting information re-
garding the "Forbidden Land." His nar-
rative of the trip is vivid and picturesque.
His visit to the Grand Lama is the first
ever made by a white man.

Sven Hedin is filled with the wander-
lust; he is one of the Zeitgeist calls, and
the poetry of Kipling is in his soul. The
"Lure of the Wilderness" is like potent
magic to one of his temperament. Oriental
scenes, superstitions, and mysticisms
reach their highest at Lassa, the "holi-
est man in Tibet," a supposed reincarna-
tion of the Dhyan Buddha, was found to
be an amiable youth, calm, refined, and
alert of mind. Other incidents are told
by the traveler which do not conform to
the previously accepted views of this
strange country.

Tibet is a part of the great undeveloped
Oriental world. Japan is rapidly coming
into the forefront, China will soon be a
factor, and then the interior of Asia will
be ready for exploration. Our knowledge
of this land is important, for to us rather
than to Europe falls the task of civilizing
these hordes of people. Russia is making
slow progress along the north border of
the continent, England is working from
India, France from the far East, and
Germany is entering a commercial race in
Persia and Asiatic Turkey.

The gateway to the great mass of the
population is across the Pacific from our
own shores. When the railroad once cuts
China into easily accessible sections, and
when the energy of the Occident replaces
the lethargy of the Orient, a transforma-
tion will take place. It is the privilege
and the duty of this nation to share in
this development. It remains for us to
take advantage of the opportunities at
hand. Sven Hedin's tale of the interior
of Asia should unfold to us one of the
possibilities of the near future.

A handsomely engraved card brings
our best wishes for a happy New Year
from Col. George Marcellus Bailey, of
Grand Old Texas. We judge the colonel
has recovered, in a measure, at least,
from his recent attack of gout.

A little New Year's resolution is a
fragile thing.

"Congress faces trouble," reads a
headline. Trouble is one of Congress'
most intimate friends, and Congress
boasts that it never turns its back on a
friend.

Objection is made that Dr. Jonnesco's
alleged discovery of the anaesthetic
properties of stovaine was "nothing new."
We may justify this comment
with respect to anything, however, by
quoting Solomon's famous words:

Mr. Wu says he will not return until
after fifty years have passed. So far
as we are concerned, that is entirely
satisfactory. Mr. Wu has come to be
something of a bore, anyway, if the
truth must be spoken right out loud in
meeting.

Beginning with "What the Democratic
party needs," the Birmingham News
mentions only one thing. Whether lack
of information or the high cost of white
paper is what stopped the News right
there, we are unable to say.

There is one thing they all have to
hand Dr. Cook, however. He is ad-
mittedly one of the finest, if not the very
finest, disappearance the world ever knew.

A perusal of some of the newspapers
around and about will show that old
"they say" is determined to spread all
the near-scandal possible while the Bal-
lingier-Pinchot investigation is getting
under way.

"A fellow in Chicago wants to blow up
the United States Senate with nitro-
glycerin," says the Baltimore News. On
the whole, we believe we prefer Mr. La
Follette's magazine methods.

A well defined rumor reaches Washing-
ton that "Uncle Joe" will return from his
Christmas vacation as untamed and un-
tameable as ever.

"Every administration increases the
number of officeholders," says a con-
temporary, evidently possessed of an in-
clination to rub it in on the long-suffer-
ing Democrats.

"Early in his career, Mr. Beveridge was
a book agent," says the Chicago News.
Presumably, moreover, he boomed in-
diana books exclusively; which may ac-
count for his later ability to swap "Mr.
for 'Senator'" by way of a handle to his
name.

"Girls and women are crucified on the
walls of an Atlanta prison. Apparently
something new as an exemplification of
'Southern civility,'" says the Cleveland
Plain Dealer. Thus are Atlanta and the
sunny South advertised by their loving
friends. How about it, anyway?

If at first you get it wrong when you
essay that 1200, remember, like that lit-
tle boy, it's up to you to try again.

"When a woman talks about herself as
beginning to grow old, she hopes that
some one will contradict her," says the
South Bend Tribune. And if no one does
contradict her, she will quit talking that
way.

The voice is the voice of Pinchot, but
the hand is— But is it? Aye, there's
the rub!

If only "Uncle Sam" would swear off
from the Brownsville case and stick to it!

The Industrial Jubilee edition of the
Charleston News and Courier, issued on
Saturday, is handsome and complete.

It indicates that Charleston has much
about which it may rightfully be ju-
bilant.

"Don't charge the high turkey to the
tariff," advises the Greenville (Ohio)
Courier. If only the corner grocer would!

The Punxsutawney Spirit thinks Mr.
Depeu harbors a delusion that he was
born a humorist. We hardly know about
that. Sometimes of late years we suspect
the genial doctor secretly doubts it.

We have great respect for the man
valiantly endeavoring to sit tight on the
water wagon. It very frequently is no
joking matter, from his point of view.

The Cincinnati Times-Star on New
Year's Day gravely discussed the "Fate
of the Shirt Waist." In our opinion, the
shirt waist may be left to look out for it-
self. Doubtless it will be right on the job
again next June, along with the sweet
summer girl.

Several Southern cotton planters are up
in arms because the Department of Agri-
culture would take the pucker out of the
persimmon if possible. And yet there are
people who decline to believe that the
South is the real seat of conservatism in
this country.

Not only, we would remind the Ohio
State Journal, shall we rally forth pre-
sently and discover the first robin of
springtime, but likewise we shall locate
the initial book beer goat.

Mr. James J. Hill says more homes are
broken up by bad cooking than by all
other things combined. Presumably Mr.
Hill securely squared himself at his home
before he gave out that statement.

CHAT OF THE FORUM.

Mr. Taft and Cotton.

From the Springfield Republican.
The attitude of President Taft has been
described from the rest of the Filipinos and
the press to be in a generation. He is re-
garded to be in favor of legislation looking to
the suppression of "gambling" in this and
other products of the farm.

Mr. Loeb and Smugglers.

From the Detroit Free Press.
Collector Loeb is going to impose heavier fines on
smugglers, but is not so much to increase the joy of
smuggling!

Senators Diaz and Zelaya.

From the Norfolk Landmark.
President Diaz has given another proof of his
practical wisdom if he has advised Zelaya to stop
talking.

The President for Postal Savings.

From the New Orleans Picayune.
Postal savings banks are one of the demands
which President Taft has made on Congress. It is
a pennywise demand because it meets a popular
idea, and because it is one of the landmarks in
his administration which the President wants to
leave behind him.

Col. Hoyt and the Moros.

From the Omaha Bee.
Col. Hoyt's recommendation that the Moros be
segregated from the rest of the Filipinos and
restricted to a reservation will be met by the anti-
imperialists with the objection that we must not
repeat in those islands the hardships that were
decried by the government during the
white man's advance into the Indian lands.

Mr. Cannon's Opponents.

From the Kansas City Times.
The progressive Republicans declare that there can
be no two representations in Congress until Albin-
ism and Cannonism are abolished. The progressive
must be put in control by retiring reactionaries and
electing more progressives.

Dr. Lowell on Primaries.

From the Springfield Union.
President Lowell, of Harvard, agrees with former
President Lowell, of New York, of Tennessee,
with Boss Parsons, of the New York City Republi-
can organization, with Boss Woodford, of the New
York State Republican machine, and with Senator
Lodge that the direct primary is a failure.

Mr. Pinchot an Asset.

From the South Bend Tribune.
It would be a public loss if by some hook or crook
Clifford Pinchot ceased to longer be the head of the
forestry department.

Mr. Ballinger's Zeal.

From the Providence Journal.
Secretary Ballinger's exposure conversation with the
perpetual seal of new converts.

Where Country Mind Excels.

From the Chicago Evening Post.
Col. George Harvey, the publisher and
writer, praised in a recent address in
New York the country mind.

"Even in wrong and ignoble things,"
said Col. Harvey, smiling, "even in driv-
ing hard bargains, the country mind
excels that of the city. I recall a dia-
logue that I once heard in the general
store of my native Peacham. What Wall
street sharp could have driven such a
bargain as the Vermont ruralist
achieved in this dialogue!"

And Col. Harvey, with really excellent
mimicry, repeated:

"Ye say ye want a dollar fur the boots.
Take 70 cents?"

"Yes."

"Ye must throw in one o' them woolen
throat warmers, too, hey?"

"All right."

"Hold on thar. The boots ain't got no
strings."

"Till give you a pair of strings."

"Better make it two pair. One won't
last no time."

"Very well; two pair it is."

"Can't you chuck in one o' them paper
collars for good measure?"

"Oh, I guess so, rather than miss a
trade."

"Look-a-here, when a feller buys a bill
o' goods off'n ye, don't ye set 'em up?"

"Yes. What'll you take?"

"Gimme two plugs o' chewin' tobaccoer
an' a pound o' scrapple."

Oldest Form of Religion.

From the New York American.
According to many scholars, the oldest
form of religion is that known as the
"religion of the dead." Before men had
any idea of "Indra" or "Zeus" or "Je-
hovah," they adored the dead, feared
them, and offered prayers to them. They
did not look upon the departed as being
dead, but as still living in the tomb,
about which food and drink were regu-
larly placed that the departed might not
go hungry and thirsty. It was perhaps
while looking on the face of the dead,
says Connelley, in his "Ancient City,"
that man first conceived the idea of the
supernatural and began to have a hope
beyond what he saw. Death was the
first mystery, and it placed man on the
track of other mysteries. It raised his
thoughts from the visible to the invisible,
from the transitory to the eternal, from
the human to the divine.

The Brand.

Irate Customer—See here! That student-
lamp you sold me a week ago is no good.
It won't work.
Dealer—Beg pardon, sir. I ought to have
told you it was a college student-lamp.

Familiar.

From the Kansas City Journal.
Miss Baller—Have you heard my new
song? It goes like this—"La, la, la, la,
oh, bum, bum, bum."
Manager—I recognize the last it.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

AFTER CHRISTMAS.

"What Every Woman Knows"
Is a successful play;
One of the finest shows
Upon the boards to-day.

But what is that just now?
The bills are coming due;
Poor hubby wipes his brow
And feels a trifle blue.

For now the Yuletide goes,
The times are out of joint.
What every woman owes—
That is the vital point.

Not All Broke.

"I suppose it is pretty hard for a mer-
chant to sell anything just now."

"Oh, no. We still have some custom-
ers. Lots of people receive money for
Christmas."

Always a Way.

"And why should I give you an inter-
view?" demanded the great man.

"I must take back something," replied
the reporter. "Unless you answer my
questions, I'll attribute a lot of ill-
founded anecdotes to you."

He got the interview.

Swear Off.

The cocktail, having gotten a number
of politicians in bad, is now figuring
prominently in the divorce news.

Pass It Along.

The thrifty housewife gets a lift
And profit clear
By packing up the useless gift
To use next year.

Boarding House Experts.

Most of the rocking-chair explorers have
gone back to their parlor socialism.

Not a Kiss.

"Christmas causes a good many useless
expenditures."

"Yes; some of the girls say the mis-
tletree was a dead loss."

Hard to Portray.

"I don't think the book will dramatize
well."

"Why not?"

"The hero has a good many mental
struggles, but that kind of combats don't
go well on the stage."

UTILITY OF THE BEAUTIFUL.

John Ruskin.

Man's use and function—and let him
who will not grant me this follow me
no further is to be the witness of the glory
of God, and to advance that glory by his
reasonable obedience and resultant hap-
piness. Whatever enables us to fulfill this
function is, in the pure and first sense
of the word, useful to us. And yet peo-
ple speak in this working age, as if
houses, and lands, and food, and raiment,
were alone useful; and, as if, thought,
thought, and admiration, were all profit-
less; so that men ineffectually call them-
selves utilitarians, who would turn, if
they had their way, themselves and their
race into vegetables; men who think, as
far as such can be said to think, that
the meat is more than the life, and the
raiment than the body; who look to the
earth as a stable, and to its fruit as food;
vine-dressers and husbandmen, who
love the corn they grind, and the grapes
they crush, better than the gardens of
the angels upon the slopes of Eden;
who are of wood and sawdust of water,
who think that the wood they have, and
the water they draw, are better than the
pine-forests that cover the mountains like
the shadow of God, and than the great
rivers that move like His eternity.

And so comes upon us that we of the
preacher, that though God "hath made
everything beautiful in His time, also He
hath set the world in their heart, so that
no man can find out the work that God
maketh from the beginning to the end."

This Nebuchadnezzar course, that sends us
to graze like oxen, seems to follow but
too closely on the excess or continuance
of national power and peace. In the per-
plexities of nations, in their struggle for
existence—in their infancy, their im-
potence, or even their disorganization—
they have higher hopes and nobler pas-
sions. Out of the suffering comes the
serious mind; out of the salvation, the
glorious heart; out of the endurance, the
fortitude; out of the deliverance, the
faith. Deep though the causes of thank-
fulness must be to every people at peace,
with others and at unity in itself, there
are causes of fear also—a fear greater
than of sword and sedition—that depend-
ence on God may be forgotten, because
the bread is given and the water is sure;
that gratitude to Him may cease, because
His constancy of protection has taken
the semblance of a natural law; that
heavenly hope may grow faint amid
the full fruition of the world; that self-
lessness may take place of unadorned de-
votion, compassion be lost in vain-glor-
y, and love in dissimulation; that enervation
may succeed to strength, apathy to
patience, and the noise of jesting words
and the foolishness of dark thoughts to
the earnest purity of the girded loins and the
burning lamp.

Let us beware that our rest become
not the rest of stones, which, so long as
they are torrent-tossed and thunder-
stricken, maintain their majesty, but
when the stream is silent and the storm
passed, suffer the grass to cover them,
and the lichen to feed on them, and are
piled down into dust.

THE CHANGING ROAD.

Beneath the softly falling snow
The road where she was wont to go
We plucked such little white and blue
Becomes a wood of Christmas trees.

Our paths of rustling silver grass
Will soon be emble lands of white
Spotted with tiny tracks that pass
On silent errands in the night.

The river will be locked in hush,
But frosted like a fairy lane
With knots of crystal flowers that flash
By moonlight, blanching in the dawn.

Floes are our minstrels, golden-wing
And russet and ruby-throat,
By all the trees are murmuring
A sweet, orchestral undertone.

So trustfully our hands we lay
Within the old, kind hands of Time,
Who holds on his mysterious way
From time to bloom, from bloom to rime.

And let us run beside his knee
O'er rough and smooth, and touch his load,
And play we best the hidden, we,
And revel in the changing road.

Till frosty dawn and purple noon
And down-glow have come by one
Traced on the skies their ancient rune,
And all our little strength is done.

Then Time shall lift a starry torch
To light our way, and lead us on
Who, stooping from a shining perch,
Gathers the dew-drops from the dawn.

I wonder if, through that strange sleep,
Untroubled by clock or silver chime,
Our dreams will not the evidence keep
Of those untroubled feet of Time.

From frost on his beauteous path
The road will lead us on to know,
And travel what high charge he hath,
Whether the furthest footstep go.

—Katherine Lee Bates, in-Pulsan's.

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Temperance in Massachusetts.

There has been a check to prohibition
in Massachusetts. Within three years,
in that State as a whole, there was regis-
tered a majority of 3,000 for no license.
Yet in the recent municipal elections, four
cities with a population of 2,000 have
decided the no-license column and one
city of 3,000 has entered it. This has
caused a prohibition journal to advocate
concentration upon State and national
prohibition. That means that communi-
ties are to be ruled in this matter by
majorities elsewhere in the State. The
enforcement of law depends upon public
opinion, as is evidenced by the sale of
liquor in Portland, Me., and in Georgia
cities. The mere suggestion of State prohi-
bition has caused a general protest
among the most conservative newspapers
of Massachusetts.

Chicago's Street Railways.
It is claimed that the street car system
of Chicago has advanced to the first rank
among the large cities within three years.
This result has been accomplished
through important structural changes
without serious interruption of traffic.
This has involved the expenditure of \$42,
000,000, the reconstruction of 20 miles of
track, the purchase of more than 1,000
new cars, and the erection of several car
barns and machine shops. While all this
has been going on the street car compa-
nies have been paying into the city treas-
ury a tidy sum as the share of their
profits due the city by the terms of the
franchise agreement effected in 1907. At
this juncture Western capital comes for-
ward to invest millions for the control of
the properties with a view to unifying
and developing the system further. From
these facts it seems clear that the opera-
tion of surface traction in a large city is
not necessarily ruinous. The point is
that under the regime in force in the
Western metropolises for the last three
years the street railway properties have
been conserved and managed economi-
cally, instead of being looted on a whole-
sale scale.

A Memorial to Payne.
The movement among the alumni of
Union College to erect a memorial gate-
way at the campus in honor of John
Howard Payne, the author of "Home,
Sweet Home," is meeting with generous
response. Payne studied there for a
time before seeking theological work. In
1872 an organization of actors erected a
modest monument to Payne in Prospect
Park, Brooklyn. In 1883, when Payne's
body was brought from Tunis to Wash-
ington, a